

TASK FORCE ON ABOVEGROUND OIL STORAGE TANKS

February 28, 2001

Senator John L. Martin, Chair
Representative Scott W. Cowger, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources
120th Maine State Legislature
State House Room 437
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Martin, Representative Cowger, and Members of the Committee:

Chapter 714 of the Public Laws of 2000, Section 2 directed the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a Task Force to review the current framework for regulating aboveground oil storage tanks (AST's). The Task Force was directed to submit an initial report on field-constructed bulk storage tanks by March 1, 2001 and to file a final report on all AST's by January 2, 2002. The Task Force has met 8 times.

The Task Force agreed unanimously to submit the following report of its discussions on field constructed tanks:

There is limited data to support the immediate isolation of field-constructed tanks from the larger universe of all aboveground oil storage tanks. It appears that access to SPCC information is key to providing State agencies the necessary information for adequate environmental risk assessment. Given these conclusions, we are reporting that we are combining our reporting requirements in the Final Report to be filed on January 2, 2002. Further investigation of application of federal SPCC requirements at the state regulatory level, along with other potential regulatory approaches, need to be explored on a facility basis, rather than on the basis of tank construction.

If the Committee would like more information about the Task Force's findings, please contact Richard Knowlton, who the Task Force has appointed to make an oral report if the Committee desires. Mr. Knowlton can be reached at 236-6851.

Respectfully submitted,

Task Force members:

Patricia Aho - Maine Petroleum Association
Carl Akeley - Maine Pulp & Paper Industry/ Great Northern Paper
Stephen Dodge - Maine Fire Marshal's Office
Christopher Hall - Maine Chamber & Business Alliance
Geoff Herman - Maine Municipal Association
Lisa Joy - Public Works/ Brunswick Naval Air Station
Robert LeClaire - Maine Oil & Solid Fuel Board
Richard Knowlton - Consumers Water Company
John MacKinnon - Friends of the Royal River
Jamie Py - Maine Oil Dealers Association
Raymond Poulin - Maine Fire Chief's Association
David Sait - Maine Department of Environmental Protection